

House Resolution 1189

By: Representative Everson of the 106th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending South Gwinnett High School and its history of excellence in
2 Snellville, Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, South Gwinnett High School, which combined Snellville and Grayson High
4 Schools, first opened its doors in Snellville, Georgia, in the fall of 1957 with 13 faculty
5 members and 300 students in 9th through 12th grade; and

6 WHEREAS, during the summer before the school opened, a committee of students and
7 teachers chose "Comets" as the school mascot and blue and gray as the school colors; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Jimmie Powell selected the Latin word for stars, *Cometa*, as the name of
9 the school annual, and Alan Herndon wrote the words for the alma mater; and

10 WHEREAS, the first principal of South Gwinnett High School, Mr. Knight, invited the
11 senior class to his home for a possum hunt every year until classes became too large; and

12 WHEREAS, Ralph Head, who served as principal of South Gwinnett High School from 1964
13 to 1973, witnessed the beginning of the expansion of this magnificent learning institution as
14 a third hall was added to the school in 1965, followed by a renovation of the cafeteria in
15 1966, and the addition of a fourth hall in 1971; and

16 WHEREAS, the largest addition, "H" hall, was added in 1973 under the supervision of
17 principal Kenneth Smallwood; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1979, Charles Mason became principal, and under the inspiration of his
19 motto, "Excellence," South Gwinnett High School began to "reach for the stars" in
20 academics, extracurricular activities, and in all other endeavors; and

1 WHEREAS, Byron Collier continued the drive for excellence when he took over as principal
2 in 1982 and helped developed a feeling of family unity which the school retains to this day;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, it was John Campbell, who served as principal from 1986 to 1989, that hired
5 40 percent of the current teaching staff of South Gwinnett High School and lead the school
6 to raise its SAT scores of its students by 21 points; and

7 WHEREAS, Coley Krug succeeded John Campbell in 1989 and made it his priority to let the
8 community know what an excellent school South Gwinnett High School had become, and
9 through his efforts, everyone became aware of the truth of the school's new motto, "Primus
10 Inter Pares," or "First Among Our Equals"; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1993, a creative, dynamic, and involved leader, Delores Hendrix, became
12 principal; under her reign, a new hall and a new gym were added, and the school gained
13 national attention when the 1995 Mock Trial team placed first in the United States and the
14 girls basketball team won the state championship; and

15 WHEREAS, Bobby Crawson served as principal from 1997 until 2002 and encouraged
16 excellence in all areas, setting the pace for pride and commitment at South Gwinnett High
17 School with the new South Gwinnett Community Stadium; and

18 WHEREAS, Berry Simmons became principal in 2002, continuing the tradition of excellence
19 set by Mr. Crowson and continuing to expand with new classroom space, a new media
20 center, and other amenities to encourage learning and the unparalleled strides in student
21 achievement made at South Gwinnett High School; and

22 WHEREAS, the students, parents, staff, coaches, teachers, and principals that have been a
23 part of South Gwinnett High School since the school opened in 1957 have shown great spirit,
24 talent, ability, dedication, and strength as they have made South Gwinnett the important
25 educational program and integral contributor of quality education in the State of Georgia that
26 it is today.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body honor South Gwinnett High School and commend this learning
29 institution's tradition of excellence that has more than a 50 year legacy in the City of
30 Snellville and in the State of Georgia.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
- 2 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Berry Simmons and
- 3 South Gwinnett High School.